

which is inserted into the calendar on the date and at the start time specified by the program data received from the local EPG software.

[0042] If the user does not opt to set a reminder in the PIM software's calendar, step **312**, the program is marked for a reminder in the local EPG, step **316**. The marker may be a simple flag that is set to indicate that a reminder should be displayed on the display device when the program is to air. Preferably, the EPG software presents the user with several alerts in the minutes leading up to the program air time.

[0043] Regardless of whether the user selects to schedule a reminder in the PIM software's calendar, step **312**, the local EPG software checks to determine if the PDA is in communication with a remote EPG application, e.g., running on a set top terminal or television, step **318**. Alternatively, the PDA may be connected to and in communication with the remote EPG application over a wired connection, e.g., over a computer network. If the PDA is not in communication with a remote EPG application, step **318**, the user is free to browse and select additional programming, steps **304**, **306** and **307**. According to various embodiments, the EPG software periodically checks to determine if the PDA is in communication with a device running the remote EPG, e.g., a set top terminal. Where the PDA is in communication with a remote EPG application, step **318**, the reminders recorded on the local EPG are synchronized with the remote EPG software, step **320**. Synchronization includes copying all future program reminders and video recording reminders to the remote EPG software. The user is free to browse and select additional programming using the PDA, steps **304**, **306** and **307**.

[0044] While the invention has been described and illustrated in connection with preferred embodiments, many variations and modifications as will be evident to those skilled in this art may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, and the invention is thus not to be limited to the precise details of methodology or construction set forth above as such variations and modification are intended to be included within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for using a personal digital assistant to browse and select program listings, the method comprising:

browsing one or more program listings to select a given program listing, the program listings presented on the personal digital assistant through the use of a local electronic program guide;

where a program corresponding to the given program listing is not being aired when selected, marking the given program for a reminder in the local electronic program guide;

synchronizing the reminder in the local electronic program guide with a remote electronic program guide running on a remote device.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising tuning the program on a display device where the program corresponding to the given program listing is being aired when selected.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising:

marking the given program listing in the local electronic program guide with a video record mark, the mark

indicating that the program associated with the given program listing is to be recorded at its air time; and

synchronizing the video record mark in the local program guide with the remote electronic program guide running on a remote device.

4. The method of claim 1 comprising

marking the given program listing in the local electronic program guide with a video record mark, the mark indicating that the program associated with the given program listing is to be recorded at its air time; and

copying one or more parameters associated with the given program listing to a recording device to instruct the recording device to record the program associated with the given program listing.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of copying one or more parameters comprises copying a channel the program is airing on, a title of the program, a start time of the program, an end time of the program, and a description of the program.

6. The method of claim 1 comprising marking the given program for a reminder in a calendar application on the personal digital assistant.

7. The method of claim 6 comprising issuing an alert when the given program is scheduled to air.

8. A system for using a personal digital assistant to browse and select program listings, the system comprising:

a program listing server to distribute program guide data over a distribution network;

a mobile computing device storing a local electronic program guide, the mobile computing device operative to receive the program guide data, which is presented by the local electronic program guide, the local program guide further operative to receive input to set a recording mark or a future program reminder; and

a remote electronic program guide operative to synchronize the recording mark or future program reminder set on the local program guide.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the mobile computing device comprises a personal digital assistant.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein the mobile computing device comprises calendar software.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the calendar software records the future program reminder.

12. The system of claim 8 wherein the future program reminder comprises a broadcast channel, a program title, a start time and an end time.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the calendar software issues an alert when the start time is arrived at.

14. The system of claim 8 wherein the personal digital assistant is operative to synchronize the recording mark with a recording device.

15. The system of claim 8 wherein the personal digital assistant is operative to synchronize the recording mark with the remote electronic program guide.

16. The system of claim 8 wherein the remote electronic program guide is resident on a set top terminal.

17. A method for using a personal digital assistant to browse and select program listings, the method comprising: